

Meopham Mercury

The Meopham Parish Council Newsletter No.14

Autumn 2017

For plans and further information please contact the parish office.

Litter Picking – last date of the year Saturday October 28th 2017

Meopham is a beautiful village and keeping it tidy and litter free is a constant challenge! The PC hold periodic litter picks on Saturday mornings; details are posted on the PC web site and Facebook page. Meet at the windmill 10am, we provide litter pick sticks, high viz jackets and a cuppa at the Windmill afterwards. Litter Pick dates for 2018 will be confirmed soon.

Is your group or organisation in need of a grant?

The Parish Council can award small grants at its discretion, to non-profit making or charitable organisations within the parish that benefit the local community. You would need to complete an application form available from the Parish Office or download it from the Parish website, along with further information on the council's small grant policy. All applications must be submitted to the Parish Clerk by midday on Friday 27th October 2017. Please contact the Clerk at the Parish Office if you wish to discuss your grant application.

Judson's Pavilion

INVITATION TO PROVIDE AN INDICATION OF INTEREST AND ESTIMATE BEFORE THE FULL TENDER PROCESS

Extension and Refurbishment Project for Meopham Parish Council at Judson's Pavilion, Judson's Recreation Ground, Meopham, Kent DA13 0HX

Closing Date And Time : 12 Noon
Friday 10th November 2017

Anti-social Behaviour

There have been two recent incidents of graffiti on the walls at the Judson's Pavilion. If you note any anti-social behaviour in the parish such as this, then please report this to the Police on their non-urgent 101 telephone number or you can now report non urgent crime or an incident on their new online service at:- <https://www.kent.police.uk/services/report-a-crime/>. Reporting a crime or an incident may assist in getting extra police patrols in the parish.

Harvel Pop Up Café

In April this year ACRK (Action for Communities in Rural Kent) launched a Rural Kent Coffee and Information Project, setting up a monthly mobile café in Harvel Village car park. The Pop Up Café provides a source of information and a friendly, informal meeting place for residents of Harvel who may feel isolated. Due to the huge success of this project, once funding has finished from ACRK, local Harvel residents are going to carry on with this monthly event and the Parish Council has donated £100 to assist with the start-up costs. Keep an eye on the Harvel notice board for future dates. If you know anyone who would be interested in attending please let them know about this event as it is a great way for the community to get together.

Picnic on the Green

The sun was shining and a good time was had by all who attended this event in August. Thank you to the volunteers who helped to make the day such a success. The picnic was organised by the Parish

Council and we are very pleased to report that County Councillor Bryan Sweetland has covered all the associated costs for putting on this event from the KCC Members Grant Scheme. Thank you Cllr Sweetland!

Pitfield Green Toilets

Following consideration on information from Gravesham Borough Council and the results of the public survey carried out in May 2017, Meopham Parish Council agreed at its Extraordinary Meeting of the Full Council on 5/9/17 to take on the running of Pitfield Green Toilets from Gravesham Borough Council from 1/4/18 to avoid this asset being closed.

War Memorial

The Parish Council has been successful in securing a grant from the War Memorial Trust for 75% of the cost for cleaning the war memorial. This work has now been undertaken by a specialist contractor and we are now waiting for an inspection to see if any of the mortar joints need repointing. The work will be completed in time for Remembrance Sunday on the Green at 3.00pm 12th November 2017.

Royal British Legion

Sadly, the local branch of the Royal British Legion is now closed. Started in 1923, it ended on 5th July 2017 and the laying-up of the Standard in St. Johns Church was on the 17th September, during the early morning service. A very moving service, with another 8 Standards in attendance. The last Chairman of the Meopham, Cobham & Luddesdown branch of the RBL, Mr. Brian Friend, passed its Standard to Rev. Alyson Davie who accepted it for safekeeping for the future. It will remain in the Remembrance section of St. Johns.

Meopham & District Footpaths Group

David Carey from Kent Tree and Pond Partnership led a tree walk on Sunday 17th September encompassing Harvel

Green and the Pond, Priestwood Green, Pitfield & Meopham Green. David provided a general commentary and spoke on the history of certain trees and their importance in the countryside to people. The walk was very well attended and enjoyed by all present. If you would like more info on M&DFG visit their website: www.meopham-walkers.co.uk

Who should I contact?

For any of the following issues please contact the Parish Council:

- Bus shelters
- Judson's recreation ground and play equipment
- Judson's Pavilion
- Village Greens (trees-parish land)

For any of the following issues please contact KCC Highways:

- broken signs
- overgrown trees
- potholes
- street light faults
- traffic signal faults

KCC Highways on their online fault reporting – <http://www.kent.gov.uk/roads-and-travel/report-a-problem> or tel: 03000 418181

For any of the following issues please contact Gravesham Borough Council:

- street cleaning
- parking
- litter
- fly tipping (if on the road, report to KCC Highways)

<http://www.gravesham.gov.uk/> or tel: 01474 56 44 22

For any of the following issues on the Public Rights of Way in the Parish:

- broken stiles
- overgrown vegetation or fallen trees
- damaged or dangerous path surfaces
- damaged or missing signposts

KCC Public Rights of Way on their online fault reporting at www.kent.gov.uk/waste-

[planning-and-land/public-rights-of-way/report-a-problem-on-a-right-of-way](#) or tel: 03000 417171

Please keep a record of any fault reporting number that any of the above give you for future reference.

Meopham Sport

Meopham Colts

Meopham Colts season started again in September, the local youth football club comprises of 19 teams with an age range of under 6 through to under 18. If your children are interested in joining, please visit: www.meopham-colts.com

Meopham Cricket Club

Congratulations to Meopham CC, the village 2nd XI won Division 5 of the Kent County Village Cricket League, whilst the 1st team came 5th in Division 1, one win away from third!! New players of any standard are always welcome and nets will start again in January indoor with outdoor in April. The club also have a thriving colts set up; if you're interested please visit: www.meophamcc.com

Working Group – Parking Issues

The Parish Council has been working closely with some of the local schools in an effort to address the parking concerns in the parish. Following on from the excellent response to our parking issues poster competition from Culverstone Green Primary School, Helen Allison School and Meopham Community Academy, the winning designs were chosen from each school. Prizes were presented to the competition winners at the end of the summer school term and their designs will be used on the banners, signs and posters to be placed around the parish to encourage responsible parking especially around our schools and Camer Parade. The Parish Council received a grant to fund this campaign from our County Councillor Bryan Sweetland from his members grant. Thanks again to Cllr Sweetland!

Parish Plan

The Community Action Team members have met for numerous consultations following the public meeting held in January this year. They have decided to concentrate on 2 main issues highlighted by parishioners as follows:

- Transport/Parking
- Amenities/Leisure

The team are in the process of preparing a survey for residents to complete aimed at these 2 issues and are looking into grants to fund further activities proposed.

If you would like to be involved in the Parish Plan, then please contact Susan McNally on 01474 815971, mobile 07795958149 and email: susan.mcnally@lineone.net Information about CAT meetings and events will be published on the Parish Council notice boards and on social media.

Social Media

The Parish Council has its own Facebook page where local information is added and Parish issues can be addressed. There are also some other Facebook groups that residents may be keen to join, 'Meopham Village Not Town' and 'Just for Meopham Villagers' are both run by local residents for local residents with services advertised and advice given. There is also a selling group, 'Meopham madness' where you can sell unwanted goods.

Harvel Pond

Following damage to the fence at the pond this has now been secured. On-going management of the pond is continuing with the help of our Pond Warden and local residents. The council has applied for a grant to Tesco Bags of Help so we can continue with further improvements to the pond but unfortunately the grant decision has been delayed due to an excessive number of applications! However, we have been told our application is still eligible.

Meopham Players

The Players next performance will be 'Dead Guilty' by Richard Harris, directed by Eileen Bush on the 25th, 26th and 27th of October at Meopham village hall with the box office now open. Further information can be obtained from MeophamPlayers@gmail.com. Box office number is 0844 288 9708.

The late Cllr John Cubitt

The parish council was deeply saddened to hear of the death of Borough Councillor John Cubitt. John had been ill for some time and sadly passed away on Friday 11th August. Cllr Cubitt was elected to Meopham North in 2007 and was appointed council leader following elections in May 2015. He worked very hard to represent, protect and promote Gravesham's interest and will be sorely missed.

How to contact Meopham Parish Council

You can contact us in the following ways:

- Call into the Windmill - we are usually open 9am-12 noon Monday to Friday
- Telephone - 01474 813779
- E-mail at clerk@meopham.org
- www.meopham.org
- Twitter - @meophamPC
- Facebook-"Meopham Parish Council"

Your parish council members are:

Hook Green & Nurstead Ward

Sue Gofton
 Rosalie Knott
 Jo McTavish
 John Ogden (Vice Chairman)

Camer & Meopham Green Ward

Sheila Buchanan (Chairman)
 Peter Hasler
 Douglas Powell
 Barbara Wade

Culverstone & Harvel Ward

Max Bramer
 Dawn Bramer
 Pat Luxford
 Peter Howard

Parish Council meeting dates

Parish Council meetings are due to take place at 7.30pm in the Windmill unless otherwise stated:

31/10/17	Environment & Amenities
07/11/17	Planning Committee
14/11/17	Planning & Projects
28/11/17	Administration & Resources
05/12/17	Planning Committee
12/12/17	Full Council Meeting (Cricket Pavilion)

Other Diary Dates

11/11/17	A Short Act of Remembrance at the War Memorial – 10.50am
12/11/17	Remembrance Service at the War Memorial – 3pm
18/11/17	Friends of Meopham Parish Church Xmas Fayre -11am to 4pm
20/12/17	Carol Service on Meopham Green – 8pm

Other useful contacts:

Police:

EMERGENCY	Dial 999
Non-emergency	Dial 101
PCSO Jo Hartley	101
E-mail:	
gravesham.neighbourhood@kent.pnn.police.uk	

Community Warden:

Mandy Cason 07977 981931

Other numbers:

Crimestoppers anonymous	0800 555111
Victim Support	0300 303 0156
Antisocial behaviour	01474 337000
Community Safety Unit	01474 337528
Kent County Council (general)	03000 41 41 41
Kent Highway Services	03000 41 81 81
Gravesham Borough Council	01474 564422
Flytipping (24 Hours)	0800 80 70 60
Graffiti Hotline	01474 337000

